



# *the Nation*

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*every two weeks*

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SERVING THE JAMES BAY CREE NATIONS SINCE 1993



# EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

**The Council of the Nemaska First Nation  
hereby invites applications for the following position:**

**TITLE:** Constable

## **NATURE OF WORK:**

Under the authority of the Council of the Nemaska First Nation and through the direction and supervision of the Chief Constable, the Constable maintains peace, order and public security within the jurisdiction to which he has been appointed by, conducting patrols, investigations, surveillance, searches and various other activities with a view to preventing crime and bringing to justice individuals who contravene statutes and regulations within the jurisdiction.

## **QUALIFICATIONS:**

(Open to both male and female)

Secondary V Graduate or equivalent working experience,  
Beneficiary of James Bay Agreement,  
Be 18 years of age,  
Speak Cree, English, (French will be an asset),  
Must possess valid driver's permit,  
Good physical condition,  
Good moral character,  
No Criminal Records.

## **APPLICANTS MUST SUBMIT:**

Fully complete application form  
Educational documentations  
Accreditations or certifications  
Medical and Physical Examination Records  
Resumes and References  
Potential applications are subject to indepth background screening.

## **CONDITIONS:**

Full time (permanent)

## **PLACE OF WORK:**

Nemaska, Quebec

## **SALARY:**

Commensurate with qualifications and experience based on new Police Agreement.

## **DEAD-LINE FOR APPLICATIONS:**

Posting is open June 13, 1996 and interested persons should submit their applications as soon as possible.

**INTERESTED CANDIDATES  
SHOULD SUBMIT THEIR  
APPLICATIONS.  
RESUMES AND INQUIRIES TO:**

Mr. Lawrence Jimiken  
Interim Director of Operations  
Nemaska First Nation  
1 Lakeshore Road  
NEMASKA, QUEBEC  
JOY 3B0











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## WHERE TO REACH US:

PLEASE ADDRESS CORRESPONDENCE TO:  
THE NATION PRODUCTION OFFICE  
5678 PARC AVE.  
P.O. BOX 48036  
MONTREAL, CANADA H2V 4S8

## EDITORIAL

TEL: 514-272-3077, FAX: 514-278-9914

## THE NATION HEAD OFFICE

P.O. BOX 151, CHISASIBI, QC. J0M 1E0

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"Hey, I want my photo in *The Nation*!"

How goeth the campaign? you ask. Damage control tells me I am the front-runner. To save me some heartache, he did not mention it was purely by virtue of the fact that I am the only one who has so far announced his candidacy. I have also secured several votes. Two, in fact. Thanks, mom and dad. My staff of one and I have been trying to come up with catchy and chic slogans. They are: A goose in every pot or a goose over every teepee fire... The lesser of the evils... Bedge votooheegue... Je bedge votooheeyegue mag... Looking for a movement... "Vote for me and I'll buy you a beer," was nixed as soon as it was proposed, with the reason that it was "too long." I think it's safe to say the campaign is gaining momentum. Now all we have to worry about is the proverbial mud which will surely be slung. But that is the reason we have given the damage-control department unlimited powers.

In case you haven't heard, the Annual General Assembly is in progress here in Waswanipi. The powers that be and those that want to be have assembled in the school gym to discuss, examine and steer the

direction of the Cree Nation. Also on the agenda is the proposed creation of Cree-topia. Most of the "chieves" are present. Absent are the leaders of Nebraska and Waskaganish. Look for the story in the next issue. It's gonna be a good one. Waswanipi's been a bustling metropolis for the past few weeks. There was a Pow Wow a while back, a Youth-slash-Elders' Gathering more recently, and for your listening pleasure, hellfire and brimstone sermons can be heard at the nightly Pentecostal camp meeting. There's also a giant bingo with a jackpot of \$20,000 smackeroonis coming up. And last but certainly not least, there's the Miss Waswanipi Pageant coming up. "The Cutest Girl In The Cree Nation!!!!" Carole Kitchen is in the running. The others are Harriet Ottereyes, Janice Gull, Maxine Gull, Rhonda Oblin (a cousin of mine many times removed), Dolores Gull, Flora Otter and "still not confirmed" at press time Micheline Saganash, Jessica Otter and Bertha Dixon. Pix will be in the next *Rez Notes*. I promise.

NDIAMOV

the Nation



## EYYOU ASTCHEE BELONGS TO QUEBEC, NOT CREES

by Alex Roslin

The Quebec government has news for you. Eeyou Astchee is not Cree land. It belongs to "the public."

That's the latest word from Quebec's Native Affairs department.

"It's all of Quebec's territory. If you say it's Cree land, this we won't accept. It's public land according to the law," said Claude Despatie, director of relations with Natives for Quebec-West.

"I think Crees will have to take into consideration the non-Natives living there. There's 20,000 people there. This has to be accepted," he told *The Nation*.

Despatie was commenting on the so-called "Cree Strategic Planning Document," which was conceived by Chief Billy Diamond and Quebec.

The plan seeks to create a "partnership" on development between Crees and non-Native entities like the SDBJ based in Eeyou Astchee. It is now being reviewed by the other Cree chiefs.

According to one proposal, Crees would actually be a minority on the committee set up by the plan to oversee development. Crees would have three seats, non-Natives three seats and the government, two—meaning Crees would be outnumbered three to five.

But, you ask, doesn't the James Bay Agreement make it clear that Category I, II and III lands are Cree? Despatie's response: "I don't want to discuss that."

We also asked Despatie about a letter he wrote in May to Chief John Kitchen in which he accuses Crees of mounting an "organized effort" to "undermine" Quebec's credibility. The letter also scolds Crees for spreading "mistrust" of Quebec "through inflammatory remarks."

Despatie told *The Nation* that this Cree "organized effort" is to blame for the government's reluctance to cough up funds for long-awaited projects in the Cree communities.

Despatie added that his letter was "private" and "not for an article."

"I don't see how come that private letter is coming to your journal. If they're playing that game, it won't be easy to discuss matters with the Crees," he said (see p. 11 for excerpts from the letter).



Alberta Cree firefighters George Yellowknife (left) and Bill Shaw lend a hand in Mistissini.

## FOREST FIRES FORCE COMMUNITY EVACUATIONS

The forest fire wasn't all that noticeable when first arriving Monday, June 17 in Mistissini. The community didn't have the look of a place that only three days before had evacuated the Elders, babies, pregnant women and people with asthma. Mistissini residents working at the nearby Troilus Mine had gone back to work. Troilus had been evacuated also because of fires.

The only real evidence that first day that something was happening was the helicopters. Two huge Corsica S-61's. They require two pilots, one to work the throttle and one to steer it. They carried buckets capable of holding 1,000 gallons of water. Every time they landed to refuel there was an audience on hand. The unexpected force of the wind generated by take-off often pushed people back. Then they would be off to fight Fire 489.

Luc PrunEAU, the head firefighter in charge of Fire 489, said the blaze started on June 13 and came within 5 km of Mistissini. It was 20 square miles in area. "It's young in the season for this many fires," he said, adding this fire would be considered dead in about three more days.

Other communities also had close calls. Waswanipi evacuated about 154 Elders, babies, pregnant women and people with asthma on June 18 and 19. Matthew Ottewy of Waswanipi's Fire Brigade said that by June 24 there was no smoke in the community and the fires were under control. In Waskaganish, Constable Chris Byure said the fires around the community are under control. The people who had been evacuated have returned to their community.

Nemaska, though threatened by fires in the area, did not have to evacuate anyone.

By June 18, there were 714 forest fires to date in Quebec. With so many fires, Quebec has had to call for outside help. British Columbia and Maine responded with equipment loans and Alberta sent a forest fire fighting unit.

Ranger Terry Sawyer was the group leader for the Albertans. He was also the only non-Native in the group from Alberta. Alberta's Forestry Service has a long history of hiring Natives to fight fires. "We've always contacted the nearest band to the fire," said Sawyer. "It's a source of employment and expands our potential fire bases in Alberta."

The 28 Natives called in to fight the Mistissini fires were from the Bigstone Cree Band in Wabasca, Alberta. Robert Quintell, the Albertan crew's timekeeper, said his people have been doing this for generations. "There are stories of packing horses with firefighting equipment by our people." One of the workers was George Yellowknife. He has spent 51 years fighting forest fires. On June 20, he reached his 65th birthday while out firefighting. When Yellowknife got back that day, he had a surprise birthday party waiting for him compliments of the band, complete with a cake and gifts. Yellowknife received a pair of mooshide gloves and a watch with the band logo on it. The Alberta Crees are apparently enjoying Mistissini hospitality so much they don't want to leave.

The vast majority of the fires threatening Cree communities were started by lightning. Less than 1 per cent of the 114 new fires were attributed to humans.

by William Nicholls



## Strengthen laws to protect non-smokers

### Letter to The Nation:

The following summarizes the results of a survey conducted in the spring which just recently became available. I thought it might be of interest to your readers.

Cree organizations seem to feel that Quebec's current tobacco control laws are inadequate. Eighty per cent of the organizations felt that the current laws should be strengthened to protect non-smokers and to discourage young people from taking up the habit.

Ninety per cent said that schools should be completely smoke-free indoors, and 64 per cent thought that smoking should not be allowed on the grounds, either. Fifty-two per cent thought that all restaurants should have smoke-free areas, and a surprisingly high 46 per cent thought that all restaurants should be completely smoke-free. That leaves only 2 per cent who thought that current regulations were adequate.

The survey was carried out by the

Public Health Module of the Cree Health Board, as part of the province-wide review of smoking control laws. They sent questionnaires to all Band Councils, clinics, youth associations, and schools and the school board in the Cree communities. A total of 66 people or organizations responded.

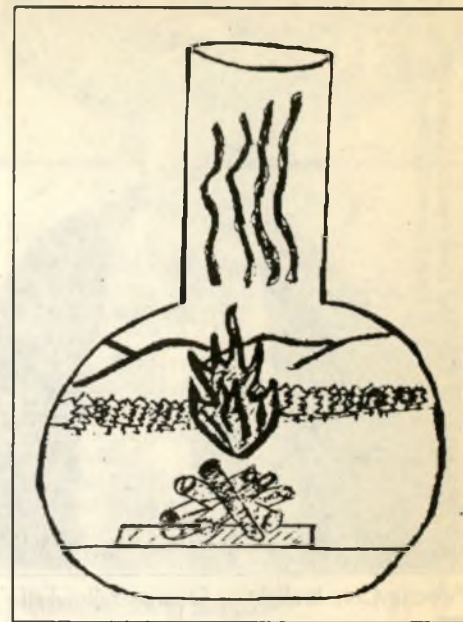
Joyce Pickering, M.D.

## Rueben Jolly wins award

### Letter to The Nation:

I am proud and pleased to announce that one of our students has won a great honour. Rueben Jolly's design for a Science Initiation Camp logo was chosen as a second place winner by the Native Studies Centre at the University of Quebec at Chicoutimi. Rueben was the only student from the Cree School Board to win this award.

Thanks to the Waskaganish School Committee, Rueben will be able to attend a special awards ceremony in Chicoutimi. The awards ceremony will take place on July 5th at the University of Quebec at Chicoutimi. The School Committee has



Rueben Jolly's winning entry.

paid for Rueben's entire trip for this special event.

Jeffrey P. Bergeron  
Secondary II Teacher  
Ecole Wiinibekuu School



CONGRATULATIONS  
TO ALL THE  
GRADUATING  
STUDENTS OF THE  
CREE NATION

*Good Luck in all  
your future endeavours!*

*From Chief William Mianseum, Council, Staff, Elders & Members*

## Congratulations

to all our graduating students and  
best wishes for  
your continued success  
in whatever fields you choose.  
We are all proud of you!  
From the Chief, Council and  
all employees of  
the Cree Nation of Waskaganish.







**"I THINK THE WHITES ARE AFRAID OF BEING BEATEN": GUY NOLET**

## ABITIBI LEAGUE REJECTS CREE HOCKEY TEAM

For a second year in a row, Crees have been barred from sending a Cree Nation team to play in the Midget AA Hockey League of Abitibi-Témiscamingue.

Crees went all out this year to get into the league, hiring a director of hockey development and offering to pay travel expenses for opposing teams playing in the Cree communities.

The league kept raising new conditions for the Crees to meet and each one was satisfied. The Cree team was also supported by the Regional Midget AA Federation. But on May 2, the league made its decision: The Crees were turned away.

"The entire Cree Nation has been anxiously watching over the Midget AA Franchise bid with great anticipation," said Deputy Grand Chief Kenny Blacksmith and Thomas Neeposh of the Mistissini band in a press release.

"The Crees of Quebec have contributed in many ways to the various municipalities and to the economy of the Abitibi-Témiscamingue region for many years. There is no reason why the Crees should be excluded from the league."

So why were Crees turned down? "Personally, I think the whites are afraid of being beaten," said Guy Nolet, who was president of the Regional Midget AA Federation last spring when the Crees made their latest application.

"I can't see any other reason," he told *The Nation*. "The Crees will have an excellent team. They are super-serious and have an excellent project."

The federation sets the rules of the

league, but can't force it to accept or reject any team.

Nolet said the rejection of the Crees is especially strange because up until May, two of the league's eight teams were from Ontario. "We told the league if you don't accept the Crees, why do we have teams from Ontario? It's not because we don't like Ontario, but because the Crees are part of our region and we should favour our region," he said. "We've always cohabitated with the Native people. The arrival of a Native team is important."

The league responded to the federation's concerns by expelling both Ontario teams from the league.

Nolet, who has been involved in minor hockey for 20 years, said negotiations between the league and the federation are now under way "to try and make them see good sense." He said several mayors from the region have also called him to offer their help in changing the league's mind. The league couldn't be reached for comment.

"This league is the only one the Crees can play in," said Stan Jones, director of Cree hockey. "We did everything right."

"You have to wonder if the exclusion is a form of racism. We had hoped that this Cree AA team would help out—not only in terms of sports for the Cree youth, but other benefits would be there, too. It would help create a better atmosphere between Crees and the other residents of Abitibi-Témiscamingue. Non-Crees would get to visit the communities and enjoy Cree hospitality. We looked for better relations."

—BY ALEX ROSLIN & WILLIAM NICHOLLS

## GINO OJICK FINE AFTER ASSAULT IN O.J.

"There's always an idiot in every community," commented Gino Ojick after getting stabbed in Ouje-Bougoumou.

The Vancouver Canucks right-winger was in town for some autograph-signing and to play in a baseball tournament.

Early the morning of Monday, June 24, at 3:45 a.m., Ojick and a friend witnessed one of their vehicles getting its tire slashed by an O.J. resident.

They chased the individual to the baseball field, where they caught up with him as he attempted to jump a fence, according to Chief Constable George Gunner.

He pulled a knife and slashed out at his pursuers, cutting Ojick on his left side.

Rookie Constable Nelson Mianscum was quickly on the scene and got Ojick to the health clinic for treatment.

Ojick, who is from Maniwaki, was left with a cut slightly under 2 inches long and had to get stitches. He was released and is now fine.

According to one source, Ojick was saved from more serious injury by his belt, which the knife hit as he was cut.

Gunner reports that Ojick has no hard feelings toward O.J. "He commented that there's always an idiot in every community he went to. He didn't want to make a big thing out of it," Gunner said.

Charged with one count of mischief and a count of assault with a weapon is Peter Simard Jr. He is being held on \$5,000 bail in the Roberval detention centre.

## WEMINDJI GETS NEW BANK

The Bank of Montreal has opened up a new branch in Wemindji, its second in the Cree communities.

Last year, the bank opened its first branch in Waskaganish.

Bank and Cree officials were on hand at the inauguration ceremony on June 19.

The Wemindji branch has four employees, two of whom are Cree. The bank says it will offer its services in the Cree language and hopes to offer loans to entrepreneurs in all the communities.

The new branch reflects the growing interest of most major banks in moving into First Nations communities.

continued on page 9



# The WWW's of Creenet Inc.

**Who is Creenet?** Creenet is a brand new, 100% Cree-owned Internet Service Provider located in Wemindji, Quebec. Owned by Tawich Development Corporation, Creenet's goal is to provide unrestricted Internet access to all residents of Northern Quebec.

**What is Creenet?** Creenet is a state-of-the-art Internet Service Provider conceived as Northern Quebec's first ISP dedicated to the special needs of the region's peoples. Creenet operates the most advanced Internet hardware and software systems available anywhere, including Sun Microsystems servers, US Robotics Total Control modem access systems, Cisco routing technology, Netscape Communications secure commerce servers. In addition to traditional landline access, Creenet also employs the latest Microlink and satellite feeds to ensure uninterrupted worldwide access. Creenet's combination of the most up-to-date hardware and software management systems available for ISP operations guarantees the most reliable, high-speed Internet access available anywhere.

**When will Creenet happen?** Originally scheduled to be "on-line" by the end of May of this year, Creenet expects to be operational by early July. The delay is due to the need for upgraded telephone infrastructure on the part of the phone companies in order to support the heavy demands of the Creenet systems hardware. Following numerous meetings between Creenet and officials from both Bell and Telebec, these unforeseen improvements are currently being effected and no further delays are anticipated. The delay will be worth the wait in that there will be a brand new high-speed digital connection in place linking Wemindji with Montreal.

In addition to this new digital link, Creenet will use a satellite feed for the NewsGroup and UseNet applications, allowing for automatic downloads to the server every two hours, every day, around the clock. This combination of server technology paired with the new satellite and landline connections assures Creenet users of reliable access at blistering speeds. In fact, Creenet services will easily meet or exceed the performance of most ISP's located in major centers across North America.


**Where is Creenet?** Creenet's servers and administrative offices are located in Wemindji, Quebec. Creenet's resources are located on the Internet, which means that Creenet can be accessed from any city, country, or continent on the planet, twenty-four hours a day!

**Why Creenet?** Creenet is Northern Quebec's only dedicated Internet Service Provider. Normally, a northern resident wishing to use the Internet would be required to dial long-distance to the nearest major city that has an Internet supplier, thereby incurring very high long distance charges in addition to the basic subscription rates. Creenet offers a regional access site with much lower long-distance charges for area subscribers.

As a means of eliminating long-distance charges completely, Creenet also offers a special hardware package to northern communities desiring their own Point-of Presence (P.O.P.) server. This extremely cost-effective package would allow all residents of the subscribing community to connect to the Internet via a LOCAL DIAL-UP CONNECTION! Creenet is 100% Cree-owned and provides the best Internet connection available anywhere. It's your logical choice when looking for an Internet access provider. "Let's support Cree business!" With your subscription you will receive a complete start-up kit that includes a software bundle containing the latest Netscape Navigator browser, e-mail account, NewsGroup and UseNet applications, and more. Subscription rates are very affordable and range from \$15.00 to \$35.00 per month plus any long-distance charges incurred between your community and Wemindji.

Of course, if your community has purchased a P.O.P. package, you will incur ABSOLUTELY NO LONG DISTANCE CHARGES, meaning that you can "surf the Net" all day and all night without having to worry about additional telephone charges! If you have any questions regarding Creenet, please give us a call at 819-978-0264, extension 260. We will keep you posted on the latest news and revised start-up dates, if any. If you would like more information about subscription costs, technical requirements, start-up kits, etc. you can contact Creenet's Director of Operations, Mr. Mike McGee, at 819-978-0264, extension 217.

**Whachiya, and see you on the Internet soon!**





## CREE BUSINESS TO MAKE FIRE- SAFETY PRODUCTS

Rev. Billy Ottereyes is going into the fire-fighting business.

His new company, called Cree Nation Enterprise, has obtained the exclusive license to make and distribute three innovative fire-safety products throughout Canada.

The former chief of Waswanipi will manufacture a new foam to put out fires, a clear non-flammable lining for wood and a non-flammable additive for paint.

The products have been sold for years in the U.S. by a Native company, Gibson Paints. Ottereyes hopes to start production early next year in a factory based in Val d'Or or Waswanipi. "We will start with modest means and grow according to the demand," Ottereyes said in a newspaper article. "It's still too early to say how many jobs we could create."

## POLICE CRITICIZED OVER SHOOTING

Native leaders in Northern Ontario are calling for police reforms after a SWAT team shot and killed a troubled young man in the community of Cat Lake.

Killed was Orval Wesley, who had been struggling with solvency abuse for several years. Wesley was killed by provincial police as he fired several shots from a firearm into the ground and air.

The Cat Lake band said police didn't listen to local residents who tried to help resolve the situation peacefully. "Instead, they employed tactics that tended to escalate the situation," according to the band's press release, which accused police of using "shoot-to-kill" tactics.

Officials of the Nishnawbe-Aski Nation said such standoffs can be resolved without use of force. Grand Chief Charles Fox pointed to an incident in April in Attawapiskat in which a man who had been drinking fired dozens of shots from a 30-30 rifle into his own house and then at police, as a crowd watched.

Police and the man's sister were able to talk him into giving up peacefully because of language and knowledge of the family.

Source: Wawatay News



WILLIAM NICHOLLS

One of two Corsica S-61 helicopters brought in to fight forest fires near Mistissini.

## "RED LIKE ME"

"A lot of Canadians think Natives are pampered. If they are, why are so many down-and-out? To ask these questions, I would have to pass as an Indian."

So starts a recent article by Pierre Pelletier in *The Financial Post Magazine*. Pelletier prepared for going "undercover" as a Native by spending three hours straightening his hair, dyeing it black and sewing 14 inches of someone else's hair to his own. A few coats of tanning lotion darkened his skin and some old clothes completed "the look." Excerpts from the article:

I decided Saskatoon, Winnipeg and Vancouver—three cities of varying population, yet each large enough to have a defined skid row—would be my home for 16 days. I couldn't travel by plane or car so I bussed the West. I slept in Salvation Armies, except for one night in a Winnipeg hotel to catch up on my writing, and another night under a Vancouver viaduct, where I shared with two homeless Indians a shanty built of old clothes atop a transparent tarpaulin. My meals came from the Salvation Army kitchens and over a dozen sandwich lines and missions. With my ponytailed black hair, dark complexion and rumpled clothes I looked like a Native. Even my sister in Vancouver didn't recognize me.

Cigarettes fostered the assimilation. I don't smoke but I always tucked one pack of du Mauriers into my unbuttoned breast pocket and by journey's end had gone through 11 packs. Handing someone a cigarette warranted small talk and conversations matured naturally...

Surprisingly, safety wasn't a problem. Although I saw a number of fistfights, I was

usually left alone because I was bigger than most of the Natives I encountered. The one exception occurred in Calgary as I made my way from Winnipeg to Vancouver. A Native man ran off with my rucksack as I sat on a bench. I caught up with him and yanked at the sack. He pulled a knife, so I had to kick him to defend myself. He released my rucksack and we went our separate ways...

What did I learn? First of all, there's nothing glamorous about skid row. Natives are here because there's nowhere else to go. The unemployment rate on reserves is near 31 per cent and educational opportunities are hard to take advantage of when you live in the middle of nowhere. Cities sparkle with the promise of money. That seems to be why Natives flock to our cities and wind up on the street...

From my observation, I'd say that once they're on the street, the same conditions that put them there in the first place keep them chained to down-and-outness. They are faced with, and I came face to face with, racism. Social services exist, indeed counselors fall over themselves trying to help skid row residents, and the residents know it. Free money, food and accommodation are magnets for fraud. Some Natives I spoke to had money but chose to eat at sandwich lines, using cash for booze or drugs. Although they mean well, benevolent organizations and governments foster Native destitution. Self-worth vanishes when everything's free... Why don't Salvation Army residents mop floors or clean dishes as payment for the handout?



# Where's the beef?

BY ALEX ROSLIN

Quebec got  
what it wanted  
out of the  
"MOU."  
Crees basically  
got the finger.  
And a huge  
bill—  
\$229,576.45  
in travel  
expenses, legal  
fees and  
professional  
fees.

It was front-page news a year ago when Grand Chief Matthew Coon Come and the Cree chiefs met Premier Jacques Parizeau for the first time in Quebec City and buried the hatchet.

The historical meeting gave the separatist leader something to hold up as proof of his good will toward the First Nations. In exchange, Crees were promised much-needed funds to create jobs, build youth centres, provide for Elders and people with disabilities.

Quebec got what it wanted. Crees basically got the finger. And a huge bill—\$229,576.45 in travel expenses, legal fees and professional fees. No new money has been given to Crees, despite many requests for funding for long-delayed community projects.

At the time the so-called "Memorandum of Understanding" was signed, some on the Cree side were skeptical. They said Crees were missing out on the bigger picture. Of course, Quebec should be forced to provide services to Crees which all other citizens of the country are entitled to. But what about the larger questions like forestry and getting real regional self-government happening in Eeyou Astchee?

Also, here was Parizeau being handed a big PR boost for simply promising Crees services they have a right to anyway.

As it turns out, even that was too much to expect from Quebec.

A year later, Deputy Grand Chief Kenny Blacksmith says it's clear the Quebec government isn't taking the negotiations seriously, so why should Crees.

"The Quebec government's attitude and lack of seriousness to resolve with us certain issues at hand should cause us to seriously reflect on our approach with Quebec," Blacksmith wrote in a letter to the Grand Chief and nine chiefs on June 12.

"We are still expected to sign ourselves away to access what normally should be ours to have."

Blacksmith also accused Quebec of using a "divide and conquer strategy" against Crees, trying to exclude the Grand Council from discussions and just dealing with certain chiefs.

"I also believe that we should not only be aware of Quebec's divide and conquer

strategy but that we need to address it."

In an interview, Blacksmith said it's time to demand recognition of Cree rights, an end to development without Cree consent and real regional self-government.

"Right now, our whole territory is being opened up. I think it's time we said enough's enough. Let's act like the Cree Nation. We've got to start thinking of bigger principles."

Blacksmith's letter was presented to a meeting of the Cree chiefs in Montreal June 12 and 13. At that meeting and at another one a week later, several chiefs expressed the same concerns.

Chief Charles Bobbish of Chisasibi summed up the mood at the meetings: "Some people are saying there are a lot of discussions (with Quebec), but no tangible results. There are other things that are important to the communities now, but no one is talking about them."

Chisasibi, for example, has been trying for years to get a decent airport and is getting nowhere with the Quebec government, said Chief Bobbish. Because there are no landing lights at the airstrip, it can't be used at night, which is a problem especially because the main regional hospital is located in the community. Anyone who needs to be medevac'ed must be driven 102 km to the LG-2 airport. "When you're sick, that's a long way to go," said Bobbish.

The Chiefs were so concerned about Quebec's attitude they postponed a meeting with Native Affairs Minister Guy Chevrette in Waskaganish scheduled for early July.

The meeting was set up by Chief Billy Diamond, who is the head Cree negotiator with Quebec.

Chiefs felt they needed more time to re-evaluate Cree-Quebec relations before sitting down with Chevrette and decided to devote a special chiefs' meeting in July to that purpose.

One of the main topics on the agenda will be the so-called "Cree Strategic Planning Document." Conceived by Chief Diamond and the Quebec government, it is a plan to set up a "partnership" between Crees and non-Native interests like the SDBJ in Eeyou Astchee.

The plan sees a permanent role for non-Native entities based in Eeyou Astchee in deciding on future development projects in the region (see story on next page). According to one proposal, Crees would actually be in the minority on the committee set up under this plan, which has unknown implications for the rights of Crees protected by the James Bay Agreement.



Kenny Blacksmith: Crees got nowhere with Quebec after a year of talks under the "Memorandum of Understanding."



Mr. John Kitchin

4

09.23.1996

In order to pursue the work begun in a positive way, I therefore ask you to be so kind as to send us as soon as possible the final version of the document entitled *Crees and Trees*. It is precisely because we await this document stating your position that the activities of the working committee on forests and mines (component 4) have been suspended for the last few weeks.

On a note that is both personal and professional, I am very surprised and disappointed at your letter's distortion of the words I spoke in the presence of another person in your entourage.

It is not far from an insult to claim that I linked the position the Crea has taken on the sovereignty of Québec to the difficulties we might encounter in convincing decision-makers to intervene to resolve specific problems.

The argument I made when we met was that it was difficult for any organization to make the efforts necessary to satisfy the expectations of a group when the official representatives of that group breed mistrust for the organization through inflammatory remarks.

That, and nothing else, was the subject I spoke to you and your colleague about. I was speaking strictly of an organized effort to undermine the credibility and reputation of the Quebec government, not at all about the opinions of the Crown on the sovereignty of Quebec.

I am not the first, nor the only, person to caution you about such statements. Mtre. Yves Fortier warned you in similar terms. More recently, David Cliche expressed the same concerns with respect to Grand Chief Coon-Coma.

On the question of whether the governments of Quebec and Canada are still able to afford their commitments under the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement, I note that you, on behalf of the Cree, seem disposed to discuss the matter openly, should it become necessary.

For the moment, however, I do not believe that the commitments made under the Agreement are truly being called into question, in spite of the precarious financial situation of the government. To illustrate the situation through an example, given that the Québec government and Hydro-Québec continue to set aside a total of approximately \$150 million

**"It is not far from an insult to claim that I linked the position the Crees have taken on the sovereignty of Quebec to the difficulties in convincing decision-makers to intervene to resolve specific problems..."**

“The argument I made when we met was that it was difficult for any organization to make the efforts necessary to satisfy the expectations of a group when the official representatives of that group **bred mistrust** for the organization through **inflammatory remarks...**”

"I was speaking strictly of an organized effort to undermine the credibility and reputation of the Quebec government..."

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# NATIVE FESTIVAL

## on St. Denis Street



The Native presence in Montreal was celebrated on St. Denis Street from the 18th to the 21st of June. A Native encampment was erected. At La Place Pasteur (Place Mashteuiatsh) were Native dancers accompanied by Eagle Wing Dancers and the Keepers of the Eastern Door performed daily. Also daily were demonstrations of Native handicrafts along with an exhibition of Inuit art at the National Library.

For the evening events there were on one hand a Native film festival at the O.N.F. Centre organized by Terres En Vue, and on the other hand Inuit throat singers with the duo Tudjuat. Finally on Saturday a dancing march was organized in the streets of downtown, accompanied by the musical group Otava Leno Whipiaipa. And in the evening a performance in front of the National Library by the groups Innu Tshemun (of Maliotenam) and Atikamekw Mos Eckaw (of Opitciwan).



BY PIERRE LEMAY



PHOTOS BY PIERRE LEMAY









# Memories of old Nemaska Post

BY LAWRENCE JIMIKEN AND  
GEORGE WAPACHEE

Nemaska was originally established in the late 1800s at its present location approximately 80 miles east of Rupert's House on the Rupert River. Initially, it was just a summer meeting place for the Natives who lived and hunted in the surrounding areas during the winter.

There were no permanent structures, only old wigwam and teepee frames, which were reused on occasion each year when the annual get-together took place of the then-very nomadic families.

Nemaska was the junction point for those people who wished to trade furs for goods in Rupert's House from Mistassini, Nichigun, Neoskweskau and Waswanipi. As time went by, the Hudson's Bay Company and Revillon Frères, then still in competition against each other, both established trading posts on Nemiscou Lake, approximately one mile apart on the same shoreline. This, more or less, was when a form of permanent settlement began.

However, there were two small settlements both centred around the trading post that offered the best deal to the trapper and his family. It was not unusual at the time to have one distinct village built around the Revillon Frères Post composed of those loyal or happy with the services of "Pishtookooyeow" (the French) and another further along the shore, comprising those loyal to the "Company."

Two factors contributed to the eventual move of all the inhabitants to join together to where the present site of the old Nemaska village is. The sale of Revillon Frères to the Hudson's Bay Company, and unusually high spring water levels for a number of successive years flooded one of the sites and led to the move to where the Hudson's Bay Post stood, being on higher ground.

During the days of the canoe brigades,

Nemaska served as a base of operations for the Cree voyageurs from the inland posts of Mistassini, Neoskweskau and Waswanipi, including those from Nemaska. Groups from these villages would leave the women and children here to fish and prepare a food supply of dried smoked fish to be used on the return trip home after the men had returned from their freight runs from Rupert's House. This activity no doubt provided the appropriate significance of the Cree word "Nemaskau," meaning "plenty of fish," which the area was named after. On the advent of the bush plane, the abandonment of Nichigun and Neoskweskau, and the completion of roads in the Mistassini and Waswanipi regions, made access and transportation easier; the canoe brigades stopped and the importance of Nemaska as a sub-station for the transport of goods to the inland communities ceased.

However, because of good fishing and the presence of the HBC trading post, the Cree people who trapped in the surrounding area and their relatives continued to gather there every summer. It was a time to see old friends, to arrange marriages and generally celebrate together and enjoy each others' company. When the summer drew to an end, all the families then purchased the necessities and each made their way to their respective trapping areas, not to see each other, unless by chance, until the following summer. The village was left a "ghost town" with the exception of the HBC factor (manager) and his assistant who spent the entire winter alone, except for an occasional visit of a trapper on a re-supply trip.

Around 1945, the HBC expanded its facilities in Nemaska by building a new store, warehouses and a residence. The people, realizing the good intention of the HBC plans to stay within the area, began building small log cabins for themselves in the later 1940s. The Nemaska Post slowly began to take the form of a village again, as it had been closed on two earlier occasions. Nevertheless, it continued to be a trapper's



community with no one living there during the winter months for a good many years, other than one or two families.

In the early '50s, the first day school was started, operating only during the summer. This continued successfully, so the government decided to build a residence for its summer teacher in 1957 and a school the following year. Those students who the summer teacher selected were then sent to outside "residential" schools during the winter. There never was, however, some semblance of a permanent school. The population, at this time,

This article was submitted to *The Nation* as part of the commemoration of the 1996 Year of the Child in Nemaska.





consisted of about 26 families or approximately 160 people, including children.

During the same period, doctors and nurses started making annual summer visits to tend to the sick, take x-rays and replenish the community medicine at the HBC. Of course, just in case there was an emergency case, the HBC factor was also supplied with an instructional booklet explaining the procedure(s) in handling such an emergency. The only means of communication was by way of a transmitting unit operated by the HBC factor, in case of real emergencies.

Also, during the same period, the HBC using its own plane started flying its goods into the settlement from Rupert's House, providing limited employment and also mail services, another function for the HBC factor. During the winter months, depending on the demand and payloads, a plane would come in once a month (if at all). Nevertheless, despite this increased contact with the outside world, the people remained nomadic and continued the traditional way of life.

As time went by, having had quite regular annual summer visits from Indian Affairs officials, we were one day supplied with several plane-loads of lumber, which we were informed was for the material for the houses we were going to build for ourselves. However, due to the high cost of transportation by plane of the required lumber, a critical shortage was anticipated, so the missing material had to be produced locally. Four houses were

built that year, with the help of an anthropologist who acted as foreman and technical expert. The housing program continued for some years, until the administration for the Cree settlements was transferred from James Bay to the Val d'Or District Office. Further construction ceased. There was, however, the construction of a new internal road system one year, which served us tremendously, as we had no motor vehicles whatsoever... not even a bicycle.

When the village was abandoned in 1970, there were 24 buildings, of which 15 were log homes and the rest belonging to the Church, the HBC and the local evangelist. Needless to say, there were no services, so water had to be carried, new outhouses built when needed, wood chopped as required, and the purchase of a lot of candles. For recreation, as there was a massive shortage of labour in the community, there were the usual parties and for entertainment, the usual fanfare generally associated with such proceedings. Many grievances arising from the previous long winter were often settled after the consumption of a well-known, home-made "concoction"... of course, there were those who had more than one grievance to settle. There was no real evidence of vandalism, stealing or any crime whatsoever and if anything was ever stolen, everybody knew about it and who did it. There was an incident where a box of 'MacIntosh' cookies were taken from the HBC warehouse and two young teenagers finally admitted to the crime.

They were seen a couple of days later both working on the HBC woodpile, presumably paying for their misdeeds. Local jobs were rarely available. The only work available was unloading planes and chopping wood for the HBC buildings. (They, too, used wood-heated stoves).

Therefore, as became apparent later, the local economic base came from fur sales, commercial fishing on occasion and welfare, which did little to help and contributed to the eventual abandonment of Nemaska in 1970.

There are several reasons why Nemaska was abandoned. They are as follows: no real economic base, no job opportunities, HBC withdrawal, accessibility to the community, the James Bay Project, misunderstanding by the people.

Since there were no jobs available, the economic base of the community was composed largely of revenues from traditional activities and welfare. This, coupled with air transport being the only means of access to the community, other than canoe, and its high cost caused the HBC to start having operational deficits each year for the post. This amount, as this writer learned from a reliable source, was approximately \$4,000 per annum. This loss and the cost to replace its old buildings (which had been declared Fire Hazards by the Public Health Department) with new ones, caused the HBC to cease servicing the post and withdraw from the community in 1970, but not before giving prior notice to the people one year early. Coincidentally, their plans to withdraw came around the same time as rumours of the impending James Bay Project were making their rounds. As many as 25 years prior to 1970, the people had had contact with non-Natives working for Natural Resources and Hydro-Quebec in the area.

In the late 60's the activities of Hydro-Quebec increased. More exploration camps were established each year. However, little information was passed to the people regarding these activities and the reasons for them. Bit by bit each year, the rumours of the intentions and activities of Hydro-Quebec increased until people realized that there was a project being planned in the area to dam the rivers and flood the land, including the settlement itself. We received no detailed information as to where the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 22



# LET US HOLD QUEBEC AND CANADA TO THEIR PROMISES



"Land is the very basis of the Cree and Inuit cultures. And it is not just a matter of sustaining themselves with the harvest of the land, which of course they do. ...they have a mystique about the land and what it contains. They have a special relationship with the land that their ancestors inhabited... The Native people will have a part in deciding and establishing environmental regulations that directly affect them and their way of life."

John Ciaccia (1975)  
Quebec Negotiator of the James Bay  
and Northern Quebec Agreement

## One Promise Never Delivered

JBNQA: 22.3.25

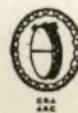
"The (Advisory) Committee shall, with adequate justification, recommend to responsible governments legislation and other appropriate measures related to the environmental and social protection regime for enactment or action by the appropriate authority."

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Grand Conseil des Cris (du Québec)

CREE REGIONAL AUTHORITY  
ADMINISTRATION REGIONALE CRIE





# GEORGE COON

## AN UNDISPUTED CHAMPION

George Coon from Mistissini is this year's undisputed Amateur Status Ski-Doo Champion from Quebec.

At the end of the 1995/96 year he was alone in the lead with 835 points, compared to the second-place competitor from Chibougamau who only scored 565 points.

George is a shy winner often ducking reporters. His family said he would like to thank his sponsors. We wish George all the success in the future and would also like to thank all the sponsors for believing in this young Cree man. All the photos are from races George participated in this year. Rumour has it that he might be doing a little summer racing somewhere in the States. We'll keep you updated.

BY WILLIAM NICHOLLS



## CCMQ SEASON'S RESULTS (12 RACES)

STANDING	POINTS	RACER
1	835	George Coon, Lac Mistissini, Polaris
2	565	Guillaume Larouche, Chibougamau, Polaris
3	560	Sylvain Maltais, Chib., Ski-Doo
4	460	Christian Bolduc, Chib., Polaris
5	280	Dave Allard, Polaris
...		
8	120	Matthew Iserhoff, Lac Mistissini, Polaris
10	100	Tom Shecapio, O.J., Ski-Doo

## MESSAGE FROM GEORGE COON

Just a short message to the following sponsors who have done a lot to keep me on the 1996 CCMQ Circuit.

I just want you to know how much I appreciate your financial support. Without you I would not be able to attend all the 11 races I participated in this year. I just want you to know when I make it to the first-place finish you are also riding with me. You're the Champ!

I would like to thank Mistissini Youth and the Mistissini Youth Council for believing in me enough to represent you; Eenetuk Forestry Corporation for your belief in me; Meechum Reg. for your generosity; Centre de Reparation CR Chibougamou Inc. for providing me a machine that takes me all the way to the finish line; and not least to the Cree Nation of Mistissini and its recreation department for recognizing and believing in your people's love of sports.

I would also like to thank all the individuals who are too many to name for standing with me and pushing me to try a little harder.

Thanks for your encouragement. Stay #1

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# Native pool team hits Las Vegas

BY LES LOUTTIT

IN THE SUMMER OF 1994, a couple of local Aboriginal pool players—Roy Rae and Les Louttit—had the idea of entering an all-Aboriginal pool team in the Thunder Bay Selectomatic Pool League, a member of the Valley 8-Ball League Association.

Upon contacting other pool players, Roy Rae from Keewayin, Ontario organized the team and registered it in September 1994, at the start of the 1994-95 season. Although the team was mostly Aboriginal, its home base was at the Polish Legion Hall (Simpson Street) under the name of the Polish Rockets.

Last year, the Rockets played all 24 games in 94-95 by placing fourth in the "B" Division of the League and made it to the playoffs in March 1995. Winning either the "A" or "B" title guarantees the two winning teams a shot at the Annual 8-Ball International Championships held in Las Vegas in May each year.

Unfortunately, the Rockets did not advance and were eliminated in the "B" side playoffs last March 1995, but surprised the opposing teams by often outshooting some of the city's best 8-Ball pool players. In its first year, the team showed real determination and sportsmanship conduct with their freewheeling style in an environment where games are played under the League's rules and most times under a very serious setting and close scrutiny by opposing teams.

In addition, only two of the players actually owned their own personal pool cues, which were shared among team members while other teams' players each had their own cues and, in some cases, players owned up to four cues.

For its maiden season in an organized, semi-professional league, the Polish Rockets achieved notice and recognition with its individual members who played equally well against opposing players rated as "A" players.

## THE 1995-96 SEASON AND LAS VEGAS

This season, half of the all-Aboriginal team members are new players and the team is called the Airlane Arrows, being based out of the Airlane Hotel. Although it is currently struggling due to numerous player changes, the following is the Arrow's permanent roster: Les Louttit (Captain, Kashechewan First Nation, beneficiary of the Wemindji Band), Ernie Spence (Asst. Captain, Constance Lake), Leslie Meekis (Deer Lake), Lloyd Meekis (Sandy Lake), Ortie Redskye (Bearskin Lake), Doug Kebokee (Attawapiskat) and George Edwards (Fort Albany).

The Airlane Arrows finished the regular season March 26, 1996 by placing first in the "B" Division with an equal half of the players ranking eight and nine averages on a scale where a player ranked with a 10 average is considered a top player in the League.

The Arrows' first-place standing allowed them two "byes" in the first and second-round matches of the 1996 playoffs. They faced their first test by eliminating the Lee's Lagers team on March 30 and advanced to the final berth for the "B" Division Championship title. On Saturday, April 6, the Airlane Arrows made a historical sports achievement for the Nishnawbe-Aski Nation by eliminating the Lee's Roadrunners, who conceded the last game.

The Airlane Arrows proudly took the 1996 "B" Division



Airlane Arrows of Timmins, Ont.

Selectomatic 8-Ball Pool League Championship title in a hard-fought game which, at times, was very tense but exciting. The Arrows had taken an early 25-point lead but in the fourth round of the match, the Roadrunners threatened the Arrows through strong finishes and reduced the Arrows' lead to 10 points.

But in the end, the Arrows maintained their composure and rallied to outshoot the Roadrunners by sinking the one point required to capture the game and title.

In taking the "B" Championship title, the Airlane Arrows won an expense-paid trip to Las Vegas to compete in the 16th Annual Valley 8-Ball International Championships, which were played at the famous Riviera Hotel.

Only the first five members of the Airlane Arrows listed above were able to compete in games involving 871 world-class pool teams playing on 200 pool tables. The Arrows played a total of 60 games in five matches before being eliminated. This equalled the record of the "A" Champions from Thunder Bay.

Unofficially, the league representative has informed the team that the Airlane Arrows placed within the top 20 per cent of the competitions, or approximately at the 115th position from the top. Considering the quality and level of competition at these championships, the team members are pleased with their standing and are determined to compete again next year in Las Vegas.

The team members are very determined pool players competing in an international league with the best players in this city. Pool is a game of skill which requires concentration and motivation to succeed. Our players have shown these qualities consistently and, if properly equipped, can achieve a higher standing in the League.

Last summer, many Aboriginal athletes from Northwestern Ontario were outstanding and took several titles at the Pan-American Indian Games held in the U.S. Pool is an international, professional game played at world-class competitions regularly.

The Airlane Arrows are very proud to have represented the Nishnawbe-Aski Nation at Las Vegas this year and thanks to the NAN Grand Chief for promoting the team and Bearskin Airlines, which made a financial contribution. The team looks forward to more support from our First Nations, organizations and businesses next year.



**We, at Post Secondary Program of the Cree School Board, would like to extend our congratulations to the following students on the successful completion of their programs. We wish you all the best in your future endeavours.**

# **GRADUATES OF 1995-96**

## **Protestant School Board of Greater Montreal**

Brian Wadden, D.E.S.

### **Dawson College**

Natasha Bates, *Preparatory Science*  
Candice Diamond, D.E.C. *Social Science*  
Lea House, D.E.C. *Creative Arts*  
Donovan Moses, *Access*

### **Champlain St. Laurent**

Clifford Loon, D.E.C. *Social Science*

### **John Abbott College**

Jeannie Pelletier, D.E.C. *Nursing*  
Emily Rabbitskin, D.E.C. *Nursing*

### **McGill**

Elma Moses, M.Ed. - E.S.L.  
Caroline Scipio-Bobbish, *Cert., Special Education*

### **Université de Laval**

Natalie Bordeleau, *Cert. en gérontologie*

### **Université de Montréal**

Mariette Bobbish, B.Sc. *Santé communautaire*

### **Algonquin College**

Julie Ann Cooper, *Aboriginal Studies*  
Kelna Neeposh, *Records Management*  
Reggie Tomatuk, *Aboriginal Studies*

### **Heritage College**

Shirley Bosum, *Bus. Admin.*  
Cynthia McKee, *Bus. Admin.*  
George Petagumskum, *Bus. Admin.*

### **Université du Québec à Hull**

Anne Marie Awashish, *Certif. in Education*

### **Carleton University**

Frederick Moar, B.A. *Economics*

### **University of Ottawa**

Tanya Pash, B. Comm. *Acct.*

### **Law Society of Upper Canada**

Peter Coon, *Bar Admission*  
Kenny Loon, *Bar Admission*

## **Queen's University**

Norman Gull, M.A. *Public Admin.*

### **Confederation College**

Janet Napash, G.A.S.

### **Timmins High School**

Darren MacLeod, O.A.C.

### **Northern College**

Doris Bobbish, *Native Social Work*  
Scott Stevens, *Heavy Duty Mechanic*  
Cheryl Blackned, *Registered Nursing (J-BEC)*  
Priscilla Weapenicappo, *Registered Nursing (J-BEC)*

### **Canadore College**

Patricia Diamond, *Office Admin. Executive*  
Hazel Esau, *Native Drug & Alcohol Counsellor*  
Reuben Jolly, *Maintenance Management*  
Allan Loon, *Civil Eng.*  
Jean Baptiste Loon, *Recreation Leadership*  
Deborah O. Matoush, *Office Admin. Executive*  
John Mattawashish, *Heavy Duty Mechanic*  
Allan Neeposh, *Aircraft Maintenance*  
Kitty Neeposh, *CVP/Health Care Aide*  
Tommy Pepabano, *Carpentry*  
Tommy Shecapio, *CVP*  
Phillip Swallow, *Marine & Small Equipment*  
Cheryl Weapenciappo, *Office Admin. Executive*

### **Cambrian College**

Stephen Hall, *Native Community Care*  
Rodney Hester, *Fitness Leisure*

### **Heritage Baptist Bible College**

Maggie Petawabano, *Bachelor of Religious Education*

### **University of Toronto**

Don Nicholls, L.L.B.

### **University of Manitoba**

Sherri Morgan Barhault, B.A., S.W.

### **Northern Alberta Inst. of Technology**

Michael Jolly, *Telecommunications*

### **College of New Caledonia**

Stella Bosum Ter Haar, *Office Admin.*





# Nookom

BY ANGELA GATES

The person who I admire is my grandmother. She is capable of doing anything she wants to do. She is almost 60 years old.

My grandmother loves to be in the bush. She was born there. She has lived most of her life in the bush. She married at 16 and had two children. One was born in the bush. My mother Annie is the oldest and my aunt Hannah was the youngest.

Later in life, grandmother worked at the Hudson Bay store as a cleaning lady, then at Fecteau Airways restaurant as one of the cooks. Years later she and my grandfather became Group Home parents. For 10 years they worked with young people with social problems.

Grandfather retired at 65 and is now 66 years old. My grandmother retired at the same time.

Now they spend their time in the bush. Sometimes young people live with them. I have never heard my grandmother refuse anyone when they ask for help with anything.

I enjoy learning from my grandmother. She loves to sew and she makes beautiful things.

When she is in the bush, she works very hard and doesn't stop until everything is done. She rises early with the hunters, takes her gun and goes hunting small game, or she will go and chop firewood.

I love being with my grandmother. Sometimes we go for long walks together and she will tell me stories and legends told to her by her parents or grandparents.

When my aunt Hannah was diagnosed with having breast cancer, she became very sick; she couldn't walk. She came back to live with my grandparents so my grandmother could take care of her. Grandmother did everything for Hannah; she made sure Hannah took her medicine, had something good to eat and was comfortable.

I thought the doctors would be able to make my aunt well again but we lost her. Four days before my birthday. My grandmother was very sad; she cried every morning for a long time. To have a change we drove down south with my grandparents for a week.

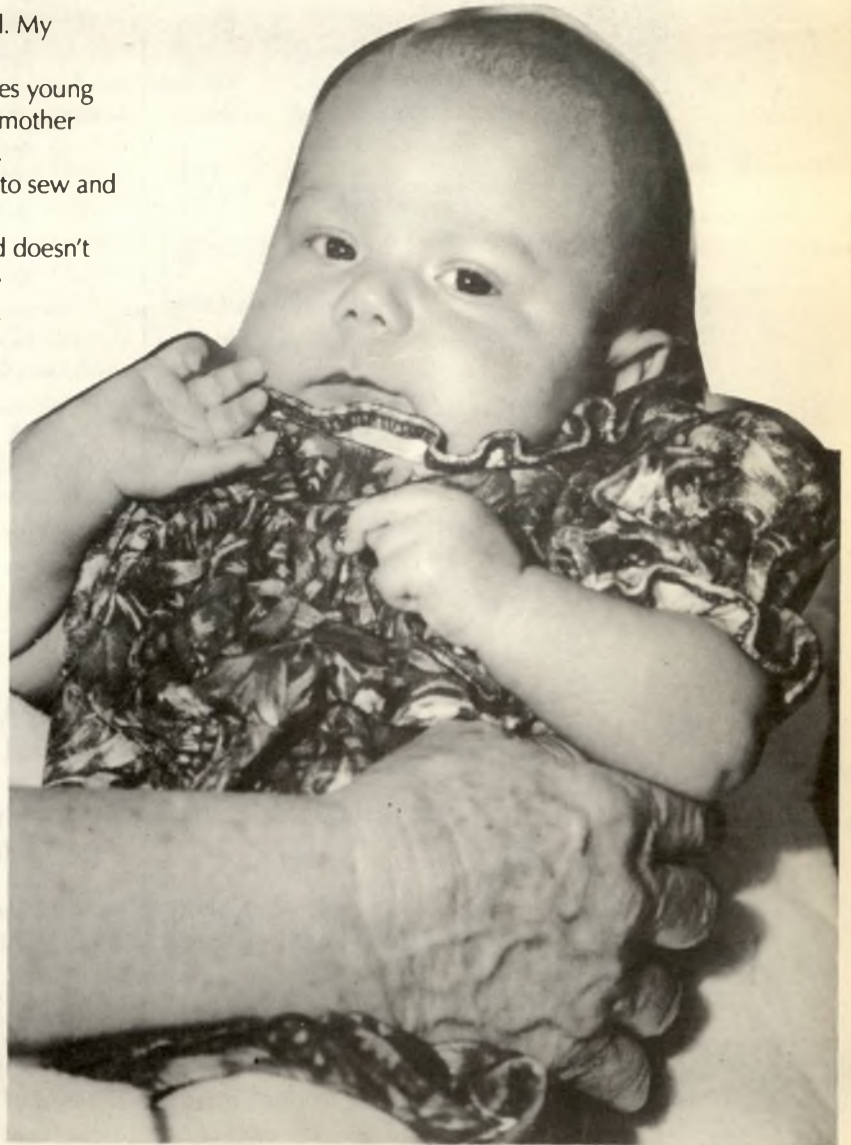
After we came back, my grandparents decided to move back to their own house even though it was very hard. A week later they left for their camp near Brisay. Inside the camp Hannah's bed was still there. Grandmother could not bear the sight of the bed; it brought more tears. Grandfather took the bed apart and put it away.

One night grandmother could not sleep so she

went outside. As she looked up in the sky, she saw a big bright star. She felt afraid at first but her thoughts of Hannah took the fear away. She thinks of Hannah a lot and she is also feeling much better.

I love my grandmother for all that she did for Hannah and all that she does for others.

*Written in French by Angela Gates. Translated by Leigh-Ann Gates.*





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# POETRY

*IF ONLY I COULD  
CHANGE*

If only I could change everything in this world.  
I'd give you everything more than you can  
imagine.  
But this world was meant for us to live in.  
To face all the consequences in life.

If only I could change how you feel.  
I'd give you everything more than you can  
imagine.

But this world was meant for us to have love,  
hate, sorrow and anger.  
To understand and cope with our emotions.

If only I could change everything, I'd switch places with you.  
I'd give you everything more than you can imagine.  
But where you are right now was meant to be.  
For you to understand and learn from your mistakes.

If only I could change everything, I'd change this world.  
And make it a better place for you.  
I'd do anything, I'd move a mountain for you.  
But that's impossible.

Life was meant to change each month, each season and each year.  
Changes were meant to be.

# My ONE AND ONLY

The day you came into my life was a special day for me.  
A new beginning for me to share it with someone,  
And to guide you in every way I can.

As you grew up each day, I enjoyed watching you grow up.  
I had my hopes and dreams for you.  
You'll always be my one and only.

Now as you reach your adolescence,  
Each day is still special to me.  
It's what you have accomplished so far,  
That's what makes you so Special.

I know you'll always be there for me.  
Always remember that "I love you."  
You'll always be my one and only "Special Friend and Daughter."

*Happy Birthday to my special little angel whose birthday was on May 11. May this day be as special as you are and a new beginning for you. You know you are no longer a little girl, but in my heart you'll always be my very own special little angel and little girl. Love always: Mom.*

POEMS BY  
SHARON  
MOSES-  
GILPIN,  
EASTMAIN



# NEMASKA 2ND INVITATIONAL VOLLEYBALL TOURNAMENT

## INVITATION TO ALL INTERESTED TEAMS

On behalf of the Volleyball Tournament Committee, we are inviting teams to come and participate in our 2nd invitational volleyball tournament on August 9, 10 & 11, 1996 in Nemaska, Quebec.

The tournament will be organized as follows:

### Men's and Women's Division

Cash Prizes are:

Champions \$3,000.00 and Finalists \$1,500.00 (per division)

Winnings include take home trophies, medals, plaques and individual awards

Limited number of 8 teams per division

Certified Referees

Entry fee of \$450.00

Deadline is Tuesday, July 30, 1996

Rules and regulations will be sent upon requests

*To register your team or for further information contact Suzie or Lorriane at (819) 673-2262*

## Coming On CBC TV Maamuitaau

### July 13 and 14

**Maamuitaau** talks with Tim Whiskeychan, a Cree artist from Waskaganish. From the time he was a youngster, Tim had a passion for expressing himself through painting. As he grew, so did his artistic abilities. Also, on **Maamuitaau Chis'chaayihitamoon** we look at the community wellness centre in Waskaganish where people find help with drug, alcohol and social problems.

### July 20 and 21

Jane Alice Matoush is from Mistissini, but lives in Val D'Or for medical reasons. She requires tri-weekly dialysis treatment because her kidneys are not functioning. **Maamuitaau** talks with Jane and her family about her dilemma until a donor is found. On **Maamuitaau Chis'chaayihitamoon** we'll take you to the Montreal Native Cultural Festival for throat singing, Hawaiiian dancing and discover the significance of the medicine wheel.

### Watch Maamuitaau:

Saturdays	06:58	SRC
Sundays	07:00	CBMT
	18:00	SRC

(subject to change)

**CBC**  **North**

# Old Nemaska...

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15

dams and dikes would be located and what would be flooded and to what extent.

In the summer of '68, a member from either the Quebec National Assembly or Parliament came to the community with a letter of warning which he read to the people at a meeting, stating that our lands would be flooded, the HBC would close and advising us to move out of the area. It was at this time that an appeal for assistance was made to the Indians of Quebec Association who pledged their support and promised to aid us, in all ways possible. However, nothing happened and no further information or result was received. Indian Affairs was no help, as it was their policy during those times to attempt to locate native settlements in close proximity to established road arteries, a program cost-saving measure.

In 1969, initial consultation took place regarding the future plans of each family, if indeed the Nottaway-Broadback-Rupert (NBR) complex was built and the HBC withdrew as planned. Some indicated their wish to re-locate to another site or another community while others wished to stay as they still refused to believe that the HBC would actually move out after having spent so many years in Nemaska, but nothing concrete was decided upon.

In 1970, the HBC ceased operations and the people, faced with the dilemma of not having a store, began leaving by plane to either Mistassini or Rupert's House.

Relocation can be a traumatic experience for anybody and the Cree people of Nemaska were no exception, and for the next seven years there was always the desire to return to the vicinity of their traditional hunting grounds.

In 1975, the Grand Council of the Crees (of Quebec) successfully negotiated and signed the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement, along with the various concerned parties. By then, the proposed development of the NBR Complex had now shifted to the La Grande Complex. The Agreement provided a provision whereby the people of Nemaska can re-establish their community in the area of Champion Lake.

In 1977, through the assistance of the Grand Council of the Crees, which was in charge of the implementation of the Agreement, the people made the move to Champion Lake through a major planning session known as the "Consult," with their full participation. The housing program starts in 1979.

For the past 10 years, the people of the new community of Nemiscau, situated on the northern shores of Champion Lake, have made an annual pilgrimage to the old Nemaska Post, through a summer event known as "Nadnenskawanoo Days."

The people of Nemiscau have taken it upon themselves to gradually restore the old site. In fact, for some, it has become a second home during the summer months, as the site continues to be a prime fishing spot. There are already talks with the government of Quebec to officially declare it a historical site.

Although a provision within the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement prevents us from ever returning to permanently occupy our old home, the people of Nemaska have, nonetheless, started to use the old site as part of the Community Wellness Program. Various camp facilities have been set up and more development is forthcoming. It also provides summer employment for the people.

And as far as permanently occupying the old site?... Who knows what the future holds... Nothing is ever written in stone.



# CLASSIFIEDS

## 100-BIRTHS

**He's heaven sent...** Parents Jennifer Serafinowicz and Jerry Happyjack are happy to announce the arrival of their son, Ryan Matthew Happyjack born in Val d'Or on June 5, '96 at 10:10 a.m. Weighing in at 7 lbs. 9 ozs.



**Congratulations and best wishes** to Gloria Asquabaneskum and Thomas Jonah on the birth of their daughter Tamara Betsy Roslyn born on May 28, 1996 weighed 9 lbs. 4 oz. From Jeannette, Gerald and Sara-Lee (Wemindji).

**Congratulations to Paul and Emily Diamond** on the birth of their precious baby boy Isaiah David Diamond born on June 3, 1996. Weighed 10 lbs. 14 oz. We love you very much. With love, from David, Anna and family in Ouje-Bougoumou! xox

**Congratulations to Laurie and Jerry** on the birth of their third tiny beautiful daughter Karen Lee Chrystal Gull born on May 21, 1996. A little sister for two special ladies, Ashley and Geraldine. God bless your family and we wish you all the best and many more to come. With all our love, From sis and mom Maggie.

**Congratulations to my friend Gloria** and her husband Paul on the birth of their daughter Paula Marie born on May 27, 1996. May this child bring you both joy and happiness. And a baby sister for Dwayne. Love, Joanne.

**Welcome to the world!** Silguin April Mianscum-Coonishish. The daughter of Beverly and Emmett, born on April 7, 1996 in Chibougamau. May God bless you. Love from Hattie, Alfred and Billy-Billy. Montreal.

**A precious little boy** Theoren Tyler Petawabano came into this world on June 3, 1996. Weight 7 lbs. 10 oz. The proud parents are Kathy and Stanley Petawabano. We would like to congratulate them. And may God bless you and your family. Love always, Lawrence, Winnie, Clayton Boodoo.

**We would like to congratulate our friend Rachel M. Hester** on the birth of her baby boy Terell Leroy born on June 4, 1996 weighed 10 lbs. 2 oz. You must be very happy. Now your little son is here. And may the joy you're sharing keep increasing year by year. Congratulations! With love in friendship, Jeanette, Gerald and Sara-Lee (Wemindji) P.S. Happy birthday Rachel!

## 101-BIRTHDAYS

**This message comes with lots n' lots of love.** Happy birthday to our precious little girl, Cherish Roseanne Beryl on July 7, 1996. You have brought so much love, laughter, pride and joy into our lives. How time flies when you're enjoying it!! Take it easy on the cake, gotta watch that waistline! We love you soooo much BB Goosh. With lots of love, hugs and kisses from Mommy and Daddy in Nemaska.

**We would like to wish a happy.3rd birthday to our little boy Marvin Brendan Mitchell Cheezo** on July 4, 1996. We love you very much. Always, Beverly, Mervin and your sister Mervina.

**Special birthday greeting going out to Anita Stephen** on July 5, 1996. Happy 11th birthday and many more to come. With love from Jeannette and Gerald.

**Wishing our boy Alex** a wonderful 3rd Birthday on July 9. I'm sure you'll have a great time! Love you! Mom, Dad & Baby Vincent.

**We would like to wish a happy 11th birthday to our sister Anita Ethel Stephen** on July 5, 1996. Hope you day is as special as you are! With love from Chantal, Roberta and Lizzie Ann (Wemindji). xoxoxoxoxoxo

**I want to wish a happy 4th birthday to Darwin Gilpin** on July 12. May your day be special as you are. I love you very much. With lots of love, hugs and kisses. Love always, Mom Shelly.

## the Nation's CLASSIFIEDS ORDER FORM

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Money order payable: Beesum Communications. The Nation reserves the right to modify or refuse a classified. NOTE: We cannot ensure the accuracy of all classifieds.

**Happy birthdays to Kerwin** on June 12, Jeremy on June 30, Stanley on June 29, Curtis and Pamela on July 1, Darwin on July 12, Margaret R. on July 26 and Duane on July 16. From 89 Shabow Meskino.

**A happy belated birthday wish** going out to my sweet adorable and wonderful niece Kristen Meyobin Felicia Mattawashish. She turned one on June 6. Love you lots. From your aunt Deanna Mianscum. xoxoxoxoxo

**My cousin Kristen Meyobin Felicia Mattawashish** turned one on June 6 and I would like to wish her a very happy birthday! Although I make you cry sometimes or I take my toys away from you, Kristen, I love you very much! (Now remember that!) From your cuz Patrick Shecapio. xoxoxoxoxoxoxo.

**Happy birthday to my daddy Phillip Shecapio** on June 11. May you day be as special as you are to me. Hugs and kisses going your way! Lub you! your son, Patrick Shecapio. xoxoxoxo. P.S. My birthday's coming up!

**A birthday wish for Cynthia Iserhoff** on June 11. Remember this, Pretty Woman walking down the road....?! Gotcha again! Wonder what next year will bring!! Happy birthday! From guess who?

**I would like to wish a happy birthday to somebody very special.** My son, Patrick John Shecapio who turns two on June 29. I can't believe how fast you've grown, but you're still my baby! I love you very much. From you mommy Deanna Mianscum.

**Happy birthday to a great friend Harriet Rabbitskin** on June 30! Let's go



**Hyde Houghton**

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# CLASSIFIEDS

to Super Club to celebrate! But don't party too much, we might lose you again! Just kidding! Have fun! From me at Riverside.

**To my mommy** Rebecca Matches. I would like to say thank you for everything you've done for me ever since the day I came into this world. I know you love me and I love you too mommy. Happy belated birthday (April 1st) From your daughter Juanita Bearskin (Chis)

**A happy belated 17th birthday** to David Wapachee on May 31 (Nem). Hope you had fun and remember don't party too much! I care about you very much and these feelings I have about you will never end. I miss you! xox.

**Happy belated birthday** to our sweet little boy Steve Alexander Wapachee who celebrated his second birthday on May 24, 1996. We love you so much. From Mommy and Daddy in O.J.



**Happy 1st birthday** to a precious little girl Nicole Sunshine Iserhoff on June 16. May all your dreams and hopes in the future will come true. God bless you on your special day. With love, Lawrence, Winnie, Clayton Boodoo.

**Happy birthday** to my aunt Pamela Gilpin on July 1. You are very special. You deserve a birthday wish from your nephew Darwin. P.S. Love ya.

**We would like** to wish a happy birthday to my mom Flora Trapper in Mistissini on June 19, 1996. We wanted to let you know that we miss and love you so much! From your daughter and granddaughter Anna and Tyra Lynn Trapper. P.S. Look for something in the mail!

**Belated birthday greetings** going out to my brother JJT on June 1. I'm sorry we forgot your birthday. Hope you had a blast on your birthday. With love, Lawrence, Winnie, Clayton Boodoo.

**Birthday greetings** going out to my brother Antonio Bosum on July 1st and to my sister Cecilia Mianscum on July 4th. Happy birthday to the both of you and many more to come. Luv ya both! From sis Naomi B. in Ouje-Bougoumou.

**Wishing a happy birthday** to Sheila Sealhunter on June 6. To Samuel Sealhunter on June 16 and to Yvon Sealhunter on June 26. Happy birthday and many more to come. Love and kisses from Nellie Sealhunter.

**I would like** to wish a happy birthdays

to my best friend Theresa Bosum on July 22. Hope you have fun on your 16th birthday and remember don't party too much. Take care. From friend always, Naomi Bosum in Ouje-Bougoumou! Hope you get to see JM in your future!

**We would like** to wish a happy 14th birthday to our friend Lynda Capissis on June 28. Hope you have fun on your birthday. Don't party too much. From your friends in Ojaj! SB, SD, TB, NB, MC, VB, BSB, TW, RC, AM, BB.

**A birthday wish** going out to someone very special in our lives, our daughter Nicole Sunshine. She'll be turning one on June 16. Happy 1st birthday. May your day be special as you are. We love you. Mom and Dad (Evelyn and John) xoxoxox.

**Birthday greetings** going out to Ashlyn Joy on June 14th. Happy 5th birthday and we love you. With love, Daddy, Mommy and your little bro Raymond Bo. (Wask)

**We would like** to wish a happy 1st birthday to a very special person in our lives, our son Clayton Larry Sandy Iserhoff on July 7, 1996. There will never be enough words to say, or enough ways to show how much we love you and how proud we are to be able to call you our precious little boy. Once again, happy 1st birthday and many more years to come. God bless you always son. Love always, Mom and Dad (Winnie and Lawrence)

**I wanna wish a happy birthday** to my buddy Rene Shecapio who will be turning 21 on June 5, 1996. From your friend Andrew C. P.S. Party on! bud.

**I wanna wish a happy birthday** to my mother Josephine on May 23 and to my only sister Demerise on May 21. From Andrew.

**Birthday greetings** going out to a great guy whose celebrating his day on July 18, 1996. Remember August 4, 1995!!! P.S. Say hi to Pete for me. Miss ya! From your friend.

**I would like** to wish a happy birthday to my friend Catherine Rupert who will be 17 on June 1. From friend. P.S. Don't party too much or you might get sick!!!

**This special birthday wish** goes out to someone special in my life, my mom Elizabeth Blacksmith. Have a wonderful day on May 25. Miss you a lot! Love always, Naomi Rachel.

**We want to wish** a happy third birthday to Kyle Cheezo and Cain Stewart on June 12 and many more to come. With all our love and lots of kisses. From Fred and Beatrice Cheezo. Wemindji. Greetings also from Amanda and Leona.

**Happy first birthday** to my niece Linda Rose B. Matches (June 14) and to my nephew Sammy Rico Matches Happy 4th birthday (June 17). So that means, Sammy, that you'll be starting school this year. But where Nemaska or Chisasibi. Anyway! Happy birthday to you both and many more to come. We love you and miss you both so much. With love always, your aunt Edith and

uncle Gordon.

**I would like** to wish our brother Ivan Coonishish a happy belated birthday on June 19. And many more b-days to come. With all our love, your sister Christine, Lyne and Emma C. P.S. Stay sober and don't worry be happy. xoxoxoxoxox

**Happy second birthday** to a huggable little boy Jeremiah Matoush on Mat 27. I wish I could be there on your special day. Miss you a lot kiddo! Sending you lots of hugs and kisses. With love, Naomi.

**Happy birthday** to my sister Bella Trapper on July 9, 1996. Don't even think about partying. Just kidding. Hope you have a great time on your birthday, you deserve it. Love always, Winnie.

**Birthday greetings** to our daughter Rebecca Matches which was on April 1st. We will always be there for you and your little girl. Take good care of Juanitash because she is so precious. We love you both so much. From Mom and dad, Irene and Isaac. Chisasibi.

**Happy birthday** to our son Samson Matches which was on April 28. We love you. From Mom and Dad. (Chis)

**We would like** to wish a happy birthday to the very special people in our lives. Happy birthday to Wayne W. on April 2, Pearl H. on April 3, Nelly Loon on April 12 and Lena H. on April 25. May all your wishes come true on your special day and any more to come. We love you all. Love always, Anne, Sandra and Stephan. xxx.

**On May 17th** our little hulkster Sheldon Cam Cheechoo will be turning 5 years old (Already) Just yesterday you were so tiny and "now you sho big." Wishing you a very happy birthday Sheldon Cam. Love you much!! Your aunts Headge and Ellie. xoxoxoxo P.S. How come you not come fight Grandpa no more...

**Happy birthday!!** Neil Cheechoo on May 17th. Well, Neil, on this special occasion (your birthday of course) We hope you have some b..r at least!!! and a blastful. Heather and Eleanor.

**Happy belated birthday** to Clayton Visitor on May 12, 96. I hope you had a great time on your birthday. Friend always. Friend always, Maryanne. (Chis)

**Belated birthday greetings** going out to Francine Weistche on May 30 and to Rachel h. Hester on June 9 (Wask) Hope you had fun on your b-days. Happy belated birthday to both of you. Friend always, Maryanne (Chis)

**Happy belated birthday** to my niece in Waskaganish Diane Salt on June 4, 96 and to Wayne Rupert on June 5, 96. Happy belated birthdays. Lots of kisses to you Wayne and hugs to Diane. Love always, Maryanne in Chisasibi.

**Happy belated birthday** to Daniel Icebound on June 8, 1996. Many more to come. Happy belated birthday. From your secret admirer.

**I would like to wish** these people happy belated birthday. I know I'm late. Sorry! To Larissa M. Ottereyes on March 5, 96 (Was) Elizabeth on March 6, 96 (MFST) Donald Matoush on March 7, 96. Melinda Jolly on March 9 (Wask) Deborah D. Saganash on March 9, 96 (Was) Matthew r. Matoush on March 12, 96 (Wemindji) Leona Saganash on March 17, 96. Her first birthday (Was) Happy birthday once again from Maggie M. and Matthew O. and Yuutin MO (Waswanipi)

**I would like** to say happy birthday to our daughter Yuutin Mat-Ottereyes, her first birthday was on April 19, 96. Hugs and kisses from Maggie Matoush and Matthew Ottereyes and your big sis Larissa. (Waswanipi)

**We would like** to wish a happy birthday to our son Vincent "Dampousse" Blacksmith. His birthday will be on June 8 and he will be celebrating his 4th birthday. have a graet dat and we love you. Mom and Dad.

**We wanted** to send happy birthday kisses to our Gooshume Edward Matoush on May 6, 96. Love, hugs and kisses. We love you so much. Love always, your grandchildren, Larissa and Yuttin M. Ottereyes. Waswanipi.

**Rebecca Matches**, my sister, she celebrated her birthday on April 1st. Happy belated birthday sis and many more years to come. After you finish reading this give your little girl a big hug and lots of kisses for me and don't stop till she cries (just kidding). Anyway, I'll see you when I se you. Remember my sister, I love you and especially your daughter Juanita B. I miss you both (and of course Barry too) Love always, your sister Edith. P.S. Take good care of your little girl!

**Birthday greeting** to my bro Samson Matches who will be celebrating his birthday on April 28 in Nemaska (I think) Anyway, happy birthday. from your sister in Mistissini.

**We would like** to wish a happy birthday to someone special to us, our mother and a wife, Edna Mayappo. We just want to let you know how much you mean to us. Thank for being a wonderful mom and wife. We love you more than words can say. May the good lord bless you and keep you in the years to come. With all our love. From your children, Patrick, Elsa, Sandra, Derek and Charlene and your husband Willie.

**I wish happy birthday** 2 my favorite people in the world "Shayna" June 24th and Dwayne on July 6th. Hugs and kisses from uncle Daniel. P.S. Give your mom a very hard time 4 me. T.T.F.N.

**Correction! Sorry** to my cousin Glen Salt. I totally forgot you birthday. I thought it was on March 2. But my mom told me it was on March 26. Once again happy birthday. From your cousin.

**Happy belated birthday** to the man I love. My husband Gordon F. Gunner which was on April 8. Love always, your wife Edith.

**18 years ago** on July 9, my sister Bella



# CLASSIFIEDS

T. came into this world and I would like to wish her a very big birthday. P.S. I hope you will be a good girl on your special day. You're soo special to me. Your name will always be baby. Love you always, Annie T.B.

## 102-WEDDINGS

**Congratulations to Rita Pepabano and Robbie Mark Stewart** on their wedding day on June 25 in Chisasibi. We wish you both a happy wonderful life together. From the Swallows (Chisasibi)

**Congratulations to Robbie Mark Stewart and Rita Pepabano** on their wedding on June 25, 1996. Best wishes and hope you have a wonderful life together. From W.E.T.A. employees and board director (Eastmain.)

**Congratulations to Rita Pepabano and Robbie Mark Stewart** for their wedding on June 25, 1996. May you have a long and loving marriage. Once again, good luck in the future. Take care of your children Queenie and the triplets. From your sister Caroline and Grant Pepabano in Chisasibi.

I would like to congratulate my godparents on their upcoming wedding, Kathleen and Danny Vaillancourt on June 21st. I wish you all the best in the years to come. With love, your godson, Thomas Kakabat (Wem.).

## 103-ANNIVERSARIES

**Happy silver anniversary** to Mom and Dad (Lawrence and Mary Katapatuk) on June 30, 1996. It has been twenty five years. Wow! Congratulations from Gilles, Anita and Calvin Happyjack (Waskaganish)

**Two special people** in our lives had their 26th anniversary (June 9 Chis.) Irene and Isaac Matches, you both are the greatest and most wonderful parents anyone could ask for. And we would also like to say we love you and not a day goes by that we don't think of you. By the way I hope you will love you gift and wear them all the time. Love always, Edith and Gordon. xoxoxox. P.S. Happy Father's Day to you dads (Isaac) June 16.

## 104-GRADUATIONS

**Congratulations to our son Jonathan Ottereyes** who's graduating from high school on June 20, 1996. Wishing you the best of luck in your college years. We're very proud of you. Love and prayers from mom Caroline and dad Harry O.

**Congratulations to Elma Moses**, who graduated from McGill University on June 6 with her Master's Degree in Education. I always knew you would do as well in Graduate School as you did in your BA (1990) and Dip. Ed. (1991). All of Eastmain should be proud of what you have accomplished, just like I am. Your loving hubby, Steve.

**We would like to congratulate** and give two thumbs up to our sister Charlene Mayappo who will be graduating from WES on June 12, 96. We always knew you could do it and we are proud of you

achievements. Good luck in the future, and if someday you decide to go to college just know we'll be behind you. Hang on to your dreams. From your sisters and brothers, Elsa, Sandra, Patrick and Derek. P.S. We hope you have a wild time.

**Congratulations to Jennica Moar** on her Kindergarten graduation on June 26, 1996. Congratulations Jennica! With love from Mom and dad, your sisters Andrea and Martina Moar.

**Congratulations to Dwayne Weischee and Jordan Moses** on their kindergarten graduation on June 26, 1996. Congratulations boys! Good luck in grade 1! With love from your cousins, Andrea, Martina, Jennica Moar.

**Congratulations to our daughter Charlene Mayappo** who will be graduating on June 21, 1996. You make us proud and we hope you continue making us proud. We love you very much and may all your dreams come true. We wish you the best of luck in the future. Love always, your parents Willie.

**Donald Nicholls** accomplished a goal that other people only dream about doing. Donnie, you are an inspiration to us all and a role model to most. But above all, you are a success to yourself. Congratulations on receiving your bachelor of law. No one deserves it more.

**We would like to congratulate Cindy McKee** for graduating from Business Administration at Heritage College. From summer students at WDC Jason Mimie and Tina. Felicitations Cindy. Bravo pour ton belle effort. On te souhaite du success dans tes affaires.

**We would like to congratulate Ghislain Bobbish "Top Gun"** graduating from James Bay Eeeyou School. From your classmates who didn't graduate: Jason, Christopher, Shaun, Francois and Tina. We wish you all the best in your studies. May all your dreams come true. P.S. Ca compte! on est content pour toi.

**We give our love and best to Kitty Neeposh** who graduated from the Health care Aide Program on June 8 at Canadore College. Love and prayers, James, Patrick and Daphne. Congratulations.

## 300-PERSONALS

I just want to say hi! to my friends Danny and Bernice Kitchen in Waskaganish. So, how are you guys Call me sometime... From Margaret. (Chis)

**To Granny, Grandpa, Amy, Leslie and April.** Hi, how are you guys? My birthday's coming up! Please come to my party. Call mommy for info. Love, Cherish.

**Loving you is easy**, being away is hard, but you're with me inside my heart. It ain't easy to write how we feel, what a look can do or a kiss can seal. Annette my dear, Diamond's light, you are near, as I sleep tonight.

**I would like to say hi** to my dada. I love and miss you a lot. I hope you come home soon. I can't wait to give you a

baby bear hug. You have brought joy and happiness to my life from the first day you walked into our lives. I will always love you daddy. Sean. With lots of love, hugs and kisses to you daddy. Love always, your little princess, Munchkin.

**A special thanks** to everyone at Blackstone Bay who made my trip very special. take good care of yourselves and I hope to see you all soon! Bush Lady.

## 400-EVENTS

**2nd invitational Volleyball Tournament.** Nemaska, Quebec. August 9, 10, 11, 1996. For more details contact: Suzie or Lorrienne. Tel: (819) 673-2262. Look for ad in next issue!

## 500-MISCELLANEOUS

**A happy 1st Father's Day** wish to daddy, a.k.a. Jerry Happyjack. I can't wait to start talking so I can tell you how glad I am you're my daddy! With love, Ryan. P.S. Mommy also sends her love.

**Happy Father's Day** to a wonderful dad, husband and a friend Gilles Happyjack from Waskaganish. You probably are our best friend because you accept us as who we are, you love us in a very warm and special way and also you're always there when we need a companion or a shoulder to lean on. We love you very much. From you wife and son (Anita and Calvin Happyjack) Oh! and congratulations on your completion of the treatment program. Always remember a camel can go 24 hours without drinking. Once again, luv ya Dad.

**Hello! J.P. in Mistissini.** Mom is saying- "Living under the sun without the son is vanity" Then you ask- "Mom, what is vanity?" Mom says- "Vanity is meaningless, empty, void." Mom repeats, "Living under the sun without God's son is meaningless" Son, remember your creator in the days of your youth...I love you and I miss you! Your mom in Waskaganish.

**Desperately seeking Arlene Mianscum.** Where are you? Are you lost or something? It's been a long time since I heard from you girl. Miss you buddy. Oh! I want to wish you a h-a-p-p-y B-day on May 6, 1996. So, how old are you? Take care now. Keep in touch in The Nation Signed, MC. Your buddy from Ojay.

**I wanna say hi** to my friend Florence Petawabano in Quebec. I miss you friend. I hope I will see you soon. From your friend Dieper (Mist)

**To J.P. Gilpin** in Mistissini. Wish you were here holding me tight. If I had you near, you'd make it alright! I love you and this is me. J.J., missing you!

**I would like to say hello** to my aunt Bridget Salt (Wask). Since we haven't talked or seen each other over a year. I just thought of letting you know I miss your girl talk. (We had fun eh?) By the way, congratulations on your son. I hope I'll see you guys soon. Say hi to Edith Sandra for me. Thanks. Bye and take care. From your niece Edith Gunner.

**I would like to say hi** to my friend who I do really love. Love you always Emily. From Sammy. Say hi to Linda and Brenda and Marieann. Tell Linda to keep singing her song. I'll be there just for you my love. Take care ok babe!

**We would like to send our love** to our daughter Sandra Kyla Trapper. We love you even though we are apart. Someday we will be a family o.k.! Munchkin. Mom and Dad promises U and your brother 2. Lots of love from A. Trapper and S./ Wilson.

**Animal!! Aaaargh!!** What's happening? We haven't heard from you in a while. We all miss you! Why don't you give me a call? It's not the same without you! We need our party animal! Come home please! Your goofball pal D.

**We would like to wish a happy Easter** to our grandma Eva Iserhoff and also to our auntie Ronita Iserhoff who both live in Mistissini. Happy Easter grandma and auntie. Love, prayers, Jordan Hayley, Eternity. May God be with you always.

**Some rehabilitating Aborigines** are desperately seeking donations for their sociological community interactive integration. Why? As we all know, accordingly from the governmental statistics that natives are likely dysfunctional and bla bla bla and so on. Believe it not anymore because most of us are on our healing journey. We live in this halfway house dwelling natives only and it's unique from anywhere in this land of ours. So, they've come up with many redundant excuses, hence their constant budget cuts. We, as the residents, would gladly and deeply appreciate any amount of your contribution. So we can buy a new washer, weightlifting set and significantly go to accredited workshops involving any therapeutic fees out there which will do a lot of advantage regarding our rehabilitation. So please, kindly mail a cheque or money-order payable in trust to: Maison Waseskun House RESIDENTS FUND, 3601 St. Jacques West # 349, Montreal, Quebec, H4C 3N4. We'll have a better advantage in helping ourselves and our people but this will affect us only if this doling attribution is seriously acknowledged. (P.S. our charitable no. is 0826560-59) Megwetch, Nia wen, Nakomik, Merci and so very much a big thank you.

**Happy Father's day** to our uncles Joseph, Isaac, Tommy and David Sealhunter. And to James Rupert Sr.. Thanks for being there for us... From Margaret, Samuel, George and John Sealhunter.

**We wanna wish a happy father's day** to our dad who live s at 130 Broadback street. He has a red and white truck and works at the water plant. He has a lovely wife, 6 children and two grandchildren. We love him very much....Guess who (Waskaganish).

**Wishing our pops** George P. Matoush (a.k.a. Jodes) a happy Father's Day. And dad don't forget we love you and care about you a lot. Have a great Father's Day dad! Love, your children Forrest, Jodes and Rachel Mats.



**Father's Day** wishes going out to my husband Boyce, my son Willie and my son-in-laws Jean Baptiste Loon, James Neeposh and Donald Mapachee in Mistissini and to Said in Ottawa. Hope you boys have a wonderful Father's Day. Love, mom Flora.

I would like to wish a happy Father's Day to my dad, Boyce Trapper. You're the greatest dad that anyone can have. You fill my days with joy and laughter. I love you a lot! Love, from your daughter Anna Trapper

**On Father's Day**; we'd like to give honour to whom honour is due...Our father Dennis Gilpin. Here's our appreciation to him for being so caring, loving, understanding and forgiving. "Dad, thank you for the special times. When you've taken us aside, counseled us, encouraged us and been a faithful guide." With all our love, your children, Marion, Brant, Faith and Joseph at Waskaganish. Also your oldest son J.P. Gilpin is sending his love to you from Mistissini.

**On Father's Day**, we, Jordan Hayley, Eternity Joy would like to wish our grandfather Clarence and our wonderful caring loving father Jimmie a happy Father's Day. We love you both so much. Love always, Jordan Hayley and Eternity Joy.

We would like to wish a happy Father's Day to Jeremy Recollet Otter. We love you very much and hope you like what we got you. Love always, Mary and your two beautiful daughters Juanita and Maria. xoxo.

We want to wish our daddy William Saganash a happy Father's Day. From your children in Wemindji, David Troy, and Megan Saganash.

I want to wish a happy Father's Day to my daddy Donny Murdoch. I love you a whole lot. love, from your daddy's girl Tamara.

**Happy Father's Day Daddy.** I'd like to tell the world that you're the greatest!! but right now the best I can do is dada, goo-goo! Lots of love and kisses, Cameron Murdoch.

**Happy Father's Day** to our daddy and a happy birthday on June 23. With lots of hugs and kisses. Love, Perry and Wabinoshkum (Chis)

**A belated mother's day** wish going out to my mom Flora Trapper in Mistissini. though wasn't there to wish you a happy mother's day I still thought of you and said to myself how lucky I am to have a mother like you. Never forget how much you mean to me... I love you! From your daughter Anna Trapper.

**Happy Mother's Day** to Cecile Happyjack. For all you've done for us, we just wanna remind you we love you a lot and thanks 4 being there for us everyday. With love, Natasha, Nathania, Shayne and Babyssia.. xxxooo

**Mother, God made** each mother special to her children. She's the best. For in the shelter of her love, their lives are truly blest. This goes out to my loving, caring mother Winnie Blacksmith. Happy Mother's Day. Mom, if I didn't

have you as a mother I would have chosen you as my best friend. I love you from the bottom of my heart. Love, your daughter Chaween. (Mist)

We would like to wish a happy Mother's Day to our grandma Eva and grandma Christine. Happy Mother's Day gran-nies. With lots of hugs and kisses, Jordan Hayley, Eternity Joy. We love you very much.

We would like to wish our loving and caring mom Emily Snowboy happy Mother's Day on May 12, 96. We don't have the words to tell you mom how much we love you. We can only tell you how fortunate we feel because we have so much more than a mother. We have a friend in fact, we have a best friend. Someone we know who will never let us down and so we just want to tell you mom. We hope we won't ever let you down because you mean the world to us because love you so much. With love, your daughters, Louise and Marilyn.

**Happy Mother's Day** to my mom. She's all for me to keep in my heart forever. With all our love you mean everything to us. We love you so much! And happy graduation. xoxoxoxox. With love always, Melanie and Dennis.

**A big h-e-l-l-o** to Ida Sharl in Nem. How have you been behaving since the last time I saw you in Nem. Hope you're taking care of yourself. Don't stay out too late or you will end up back here in O.J. Don't party hardy with Barcidi too much... Promise. If you do leave some for me. Neh! Your buddy from: Ouje-Bougoumou?

I wanna say Hi! to my two sisters and my tree nephews in North Bay, Ont. Lucy Trapper, Linda Cooper, Brandon, Mason and Josiah. I really miss you guys. I hope to see soon. Love you all. From sis. aunt Karen Trapper (Mist.)

I would like to say "Hi" to the Bearskin family in Chisasibi. I hope that things are going well like it is here, and I really apologize for not showing up to visit while I was there cause I was too busy playing b-ball and always tired. And Jane give a hug & kiss to Sarah-Jane for me, thank! Love & happiness C. Blackned. Take care. I miss you. I really wanted to see you, next time, I promise, Sarah-Jane.

**In memory of my friend Margaret Neeposh-Jolly.** Although we know each other for just a little while, the moments we shared together as friends were extremely precious to me. I know you have gone to a better place because you told me you would. As a sister in Christ to you, I will see you again in another world... a better world. Perhaps then, we can continue to share our friendship together. For now, I am going to miss you till we meet again. Margaret died on March 9, 1996 in Chibougamau, Quebec. Hattie B. Coonishish.

**Congratulations going out to Cynthia Grace McKee of Chisasibi** for successfully completing the Business Administration program at Heritage College in Hull. Hope you have fun this summer and good luck in the coming school year. From BMB in Ojaj.

## A SPECIAL FRIEND

A special friend  
is someone  
who will always mean so  
much,  
Someone who will always  
care  
and always keep in touch.  
A special friend is almost  
like  
a sister or a brother,  
For there are things  
that you can only  
tell to one another...

A special friend  
can help you through  
your very hardest days,

Or brighten up the good  
times  
with their caring,  
thoughtful ways.  
That's why of all the many  
joys  
that life could ever send,  
There is no greater  
treasure  
than a very special friend!

To my special friend,  
Maudie Jolly  
Lots of love  
Your friend always,  
**ANNIE LAURIE TRAPPER**

### Canada's New Employment Insurance System

#### Outlining the Changes

Beginning July 1, 1996, the Employment Insurance system replaces the present UI system. It provides Canadians with basic income protection, plus a range of new Re-employment Benefits to help unemployed workers get jobs.

Here are answers to some of the questions you may have about the new Employment Insurance system. Some changes will take effect on July 1, 1996 while others will come into force in January 1997.

#### FOR CLAIMS STARTING JULY 1, 1996 OR AFTER:

##### How do I qualify for benefits?

You will still require between 12 to 20 weeks of work in the last year, depending on the rate of unemployment in your region. The higher the rate of unemployment, the fewer number of weeks of work are required. (The hours system will not come into effect until January 1, 1997.)

HOWEVER, you require a minimum of 26 insured weeks of work if:

- you are entering the workforce for the first time
- you are re-entering the workforce after an absence of two years or more,
- you have less than 14 weeks of employment in your first year entering or re-entering the workforce.

For sickness, maternity or parental benefits, you will still require 20 weeks of work.

##### How much will I receive?

You will still receive 55% of your average insured earnings, up to a maximum of \$413 per week. People who earn \$375 a week or less and who have dependents will still receive 60% of their average insured earnings.

##### How many weeks can I receive EI?

The majority of claimants will receive between 36 and 44 weeks of benefits. For people who qualify the maximum duration of a claim is 45 weeks.

##### What is the new Intensity Rule?

People who claim more than twenty weeks of benefits in five years will receive a modest 1% reduction in their benefits, with a subsequent 1% reduction for each additional 20 weeks claimed. The maximum reduction for 100 weeks claimed will be 5%.

Under EI, claimants who commit fraud will face stiffer eligibility rules. More weeks will be required to qualify for future claims and financial penalties will increase.

#### For more information:

- call toll free 1 800 276-7655 to receive a brochure on Canada's new Employment Insurance system (TTY 1 800 465-7735)
- visit your local Human Resource Centre of Canada (formerly known as Canada Employment Centre) listed in the Government of Canada pages of your telephone book under Human Resources Development Canada.
- look on the Internet at <http://www.hrdc-hrhc.gc.ca>





## 2ND ANNUAL INVITATIONAL OLD TIMERS SLO-PITCH TOURNAMENT

**AUGUST 8, 9, 10, 11, 1996  
EASTMAIN, QUEBEC**

**Men's Category: 30 years & over**  
Maximum of teams to enter: six (6) teams  
Cash Prizes:  
Champions: \$2,000.00  
Finalists: \$1,000.00  
Inscription Fee: \$400.00

**Women's Category: 30 years & over**  
Maximum of teams to enter: six (6) teams  
Cash Prizes:  
Champions: \$2,000.00  
Finalists: \$1,000.00  
Inscription Fee: \$400.00

**PLUS TROPHIES AND INDIVIDUAL PLAYER AWARDS!**

*For more information contact:*

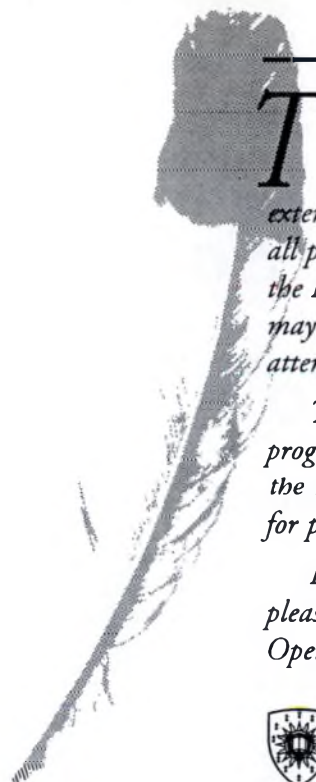
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**T**hrough its Centre for Native Education, Concordia University extends a warm welcome to all potential students from the Native Cultures who may be thinking of attending university.

*There are a few programmes still open for the 1996/97 academic year for part-time studies only.*

*For more information, please call: 848-2668  
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Something To Say!***



**"ᑕᑭᑦ ᑲᑦᑕᑦᑎᑦ ᑎᑦᑎᑦ ᑎᑦᑎᑦ"**

***Takun Chekwaan Ewii Itweyaahch***

# **CREE NATION GATHERING FOR HEALING**

**AUGUST 9-15, 1996**

***MISTISSINI, (QUÉBEC)***

**"We all agreed that it is only through open discussion  
that we can face our fears and deal with them"**

***Comment from a youth participant of the Youth Forum 1994.***

**This conference is to gather leaders of different ages, parents,  
school authorities and especially our youth, to discuss and share  
what we can do to make our communities stronger for a better tomorrow.**

***This Regional Conference is hosted by  
the Cree Nation of Mistissini and its Mamou Wechidodow Group.***

***For more information, contact the Conference Coordinator:***

***Tina Petawabano at (418) 923-3461, ext. 232.***